Listing of Claims

1. (Previously Presented) A method for compressing data, comprising the steps of:

analyzing a data block of an input data stream to identify one or more data types of the data block, the input data stream comprising a plurality of disparate data types;

performing content dependent data compression, if a data type of the data block is identified;

performing data compression with a single data compression encoder, if a data type of the data block is not identified.

2. ~ 22. (Canceled)

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising outputting a compressed data block.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising appending a data compression type descriptor to a compressed data block.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, further comprising outputting the compressed data block with the appended data compression type descriptor.

26. ~ 29. (Canceled)

30. (Previously Presented) A method for compressing data, comprising the steps of:

analyzing a data block of an input data stream to identify a data type of the data block, the input data stream comprising a plurality of disparate data types,

if the data type of the data block is identified, then the method further comprising:

performing content dependent data compression to compress the data block;

comparing a content dependent data compression ratio of the compressed data

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block against a first threshold;

   appending a data compression type descriptor to the compressed data block;

   outputting the compressed data block and appended data compression type
descriptor, if the content data compression ratio is above the first threshold; and

   performing data compression on the data block with a single data compression
encoder, if the content dependent data compression ratio is not above the first threshold.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, wherein if the data type of the data
block is not identified, then the method further comprising:

   performing data compression with a single default data compression encoder to compress
the data block;

   comparing a default data compression ratio of the compressed data block against a second
threshold;

   if the default data compression ratio is below the second threshold, then appending a null
data compression type descriptor to the data block and outputting the data block and appended
null data compression type descriptor; and

   if the default data compression ratio is above the second threshold, then appending a
default data compression type descriptor to the compressed data block and outputting the
compressed data block and appended default data compression type descriptor.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said performing content
dependent data compression further comprises enabling at least one encoder associated to said
data type to compress said data block.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said performing content
dependent data compression further comprises:

   associating a plurality of encoders to said data type;

   determining which one of said plurality of encoders associated to said identified data type
is to at least output a compressed data block.

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34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said performing content dependent data compression further comprises:

compressing said data block with a plurality of encoders that are associated to said data type;

determining which one of said plurality of encoders yields the highest compression ratio.

35. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said performing content dependent data compression further comprises compressing said data block with a cascaded ~~array~~ ~~of~~ encoders that are associated to said data type.

36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said content dependent compression is lossless.

37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said content dependent compression is lossy.

38. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said data compression is lossless.

39. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said content dependent compression is lossy and said data compression is lossless.

40. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said content dependent data compression further comprises associating a plurality of encoders to said data type, wherein at least one of said plurality of encoders provides lossy compression and at least another one of said encoders provides lossless compression.

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41. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said content dependent data compression is lossy or lossless dependent on said data type.

42. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said content dependent data compression is lossy and the amount of desired resolution of said lossy compression is selected.

43. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said input stream is a compressed input stream.

44. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said input stream is an uncompressed input stream.

45. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising processing said data block as having a fixed size.

46. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising processing said data block as having a variable size.

47. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising counting the size of said data block.

48. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising buffering said input data stream.

49. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising buffering a compressed data block.

50. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
~~compressing said~~ <u>outputting a compressed</u> data block; and

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~~appending~~ providing a compression type descriptor with ~~to~~ said compressed data block representative of the type of compression used to provide said compressed data block.

51. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said content dependent data compression further comprises providing a compressed data block from the one of a plurality of encoders, associated to said data type, that has the highest compression ratio for said data block.

52. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said content dependent data compression further comprises providing a compressed data block from the one of a plurality of encoders, associated to said data type, that has the highest compression ratio for said data block, wherein said highest compression ratio is determined by comparing the size of said data block to the size of said compressed data block.

53. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said content dependent data compression further comprises providing a compressed data block from the one of a plurality of encoders, associated to said data type, that has the highest compression ratio for said data block so long as said highest compression ratio exceeds a compression threshold.

54. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said data compression further comprises providing a compressed data block from said single compression encoder so long as the compression ratio of said compressed data block exceeds a compression threshold.

55. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein:

said content dependent data compression further comprises providing a first compressed data block from the one of a plurality of encoders, associated to said data type, that has the highest compression ratio for said data block so long as said highest compression ratio exceeds a first compression threshold if said data type of said data block is identified; and

said data compression further comprises providing a second compressed data block from said single compression encoder so long as the compression ratio ~~if~~ of said second compressed

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data block exceeds a second compression threshold if said data type of said data block is not identified.

56. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein:

said content dependent data compression further comprises providing a first compressed data block from the one of a plurality of encoders, associated to said data type, that has the highest compression ratio for said data block so long as said highest compression ratio exceeds a first compression threshold if said data type of said data block is identified; and

said ~~contend-independent~~ data compression further comprises providing a second compressed data block from said single compression encoder so long as the compression ratio of said second compressed data block exceeds a second compression threshold if said data type of said data block is not identified, wherein ~~and~~ said first and second compression thresholds are different.

57. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein:

said content dependent data compression further comprises providing a first compressed data block from the one of a plurality of encoders, associated to said identified data type, that has the highest compression ratio for said data block so long as said highest compression ratio exceeds a first compression threshold if said data type of said data block is identified; and

said ~~contend-independent~~ data compression further comprises providing a second compressed data block from said single compression encoder so long as said the compression ratio of said second compressed data block exceeds said first compression threshold if said data type of said data block is not identified.

58. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said content dependent data compression further comprises providing a compressed data block from the one of a plurality of encoders, associated to said data type, that has the highest compression ratio for said data block so long as said highest compression ratio exceeds a first user-specified compression threshold.

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59. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said content dependent data compression further comprises providing a compressed data block from the one of a plurality of encoders, associated to said data type, that has the highest desirability factor for said data block.

60. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said content dependent data compression further comprises providing a compressed data block from the one of a plurality of encoders, associated to said data type, that has the highest user-specified desirability factor for said data block.

61. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said content dependent data compression is performed so long as the time to perform said content dependent data compression is below a time value.

62. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said content dependent data compression is performed so long as the time to perform said content dependent data compression is below a time value, wherein said time value is user-specified.

63. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said data compression is performed so long as the time to perform said data compression is below a time value.

64. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said data compression is performed so long as the time to perform said data compression is below a time value, wherein said time value is user specified.

65. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said content dependent data compression further comprises:
   initializing a timer;
   compressing said data block using at least one encoder associated to said data type; and

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outputting said compressed data so long as said timer does not expire with respect to a time value.

66. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

    providing ~~determining~~ a compression threshold; and

    outputting a compressed data block that exceeds said compression threshold;.

67. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said performing content dependent data compression further comprises:

    associating a plurality of encoders to said data type; and

    determining which one of said associated encoders ~~is used~~ to use to compress said data block.

68. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said performing content dependent data compression further comprises:

    associating a plurality of encoders to said data type; and

    compressing ~~a~~ said data block using at least two of said associated encoders.

69. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said performing content dependent data compression further comprises:

    associating a plurality of encoders to said data type;

    compressing said data block using at least two of said associated encoders; and

    determining which of said at least two of said associated encoders produced the highest compression.

70. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said performing content dependent data compression further comprises compressing said data block using at least two encoders.

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71. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, wherein said content dependent compression is lossless.

72. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, wherein said content dependent compression is lossy.

73. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, wherein said data compression is lossless.

74. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, wherein said content dependent compression is lossy and said data compression is lossless.

75. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, wherein said content dependent data compression is lossy or lossless dependent on said data type.

76. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, wherein said content dependent data compression is lossy and the amount of desired resolution of said lossy compression is selected.

77. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, wherein said input stream is a compressed input stream.

78. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, wherein said input stream is an uncompressed input stream.

79. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, further comprising processing said data block as having a fixed size.

80. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, further comprising processing said data block as having a variable size.

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81. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, further comprising counting the size of said data block.

82. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, further comprising buffering said input data stream.

83. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 30, further comprising buffering a said compressed data block.

84. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 30, wherein said data compression further comprises ~~appending~~ providing a ~~second~~ data ~~type~~ compression type descriptor ~~to~~ with a second ~~said~~ compressed data block.

85. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 30, wherein said data compression further comprises providing ~~comparing the data compression ratio of said compressed data block against~~ a second threshold for said data compression with said single data compression encoder.

86. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 30, wherein said data compression further comprises:

~~comparing the data compression ratio of said compressed data block against~~ providing a second threshold for said data compression with said single data compression encoder; and

outputting said data block if ~~said data~~ the compression ratio obtained from said data compression with said single data compression encoder does not exceed said second threshold.

87. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 30, wherein said data compression further comprises:

~~comparing the data compression ratio of said compressed data block against~~ providing a second threshold for said data compression with said single data compression encoder; and

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outputting said data block, appended with a null data compression type descriptor, if said the data compression ratio obtained from said data compression with said single data compression encoder does not exceed said second threshold.

88. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 30, wherein said data compression further comprises:

comparing the data compression ratio of said compressed data block against providing a second threshold for said data compression with said single data compression encoder; and

appending a null data compression type descriptor to said data block.

89. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 30, wherein said data compression further comprises determining whether or not to append output a null data compression type descriptor to said data block.

90. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, wherein said content dependent data compression further comprises:

associating at least one encoder to said data type; and

compressing said data block with at least one of said at least one associated encoders to provide said compressed data block.

91. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, wherein said content dependent data compression further comprises:

associating at two encoders to said data type; and

compressing said data block with at least two of said at least two associated encoders to provide said compressed data block.

92. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, wherein said content dependent data compression further comprises:

associating at least two encoders to said data type; and

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providing said compressed data block from the one of said at least two associated encoders that provides the highest compression ratio.

93. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, wherein said content dependent data compression further comprises enabling at least one encoder associated to said data type to compress said data block.

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